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NEWCASTLE EMLYN

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

1955.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:-

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

EVAN EVANS, M.B., B.S.(Lond).,
M.R.C.S.(Eng)., L.R.C.P.(Lond).

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:-

W. J. GRIFFITHS

J. G. ROWLANDS, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mr.Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1955, together with the Table of Vital Statistics.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area of the District		82,842 acres
Estimated Population	Newcastle Enlyn R.D.C. (1951 Census)	8,692
England and Wales		44,274,000
Children aged 0 - 4		609
Children aged 5 - 14		1,129
Rateable Value		£16,488
Sum represented by a Penny Rate		£65

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	Male	Female
Number of registered live births	(Leg.).	45	19	26
	(Illeg.).	1	1	--
Number of deaths		142	71	71
Number of deaths of women ascribed to childbirth		NIL	NIL	NIL
Number of deaths of infants 1 year	(Leg.).	1	1	--
	(Illeg.).	--	--	--
Number of deaths of infants under 1 month		--	--	--
Number of deaths from tuberculosis		1	1	--

The number of deaths registered was 142 of whom 71 were females. The number of registered live births was 46. The excess of deaths over births is not uncommon in the area where the population is heavily weighted by the older age group.

Heart Disease accounted for 67 and was a principal single cause. Of the deaths from Heart Disease 26 were male and 41 female.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system (Cerebral Haemorrhages,etc.) and Cancer in its various forms claimed 32 victims. There was 1 death from Respiratory Tuberculosis. No mother died as a result of childbirth.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CERTAIN DISEASES 1955.

	Total	Male	Female
Heart Disease	67	26	41
Cerebral Haemorrhage	18	8	10
Other Diseases	39	26	13
Cancer	14	8	6
Tuberculosis	1	1	--
Accidents	3	2	1
Suicide	NIL	NIL	NIL

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Total	Male	Female
Number of Cases notified during 1955	6	3	3

AGES OF CASES NOTIFIED.

Age	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
25	1	
41	1	
43	1	
38	1	
55	1	
26		1

Removed from register = 8.

6 were cured
1 died
1 left the area

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GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) No ante natal or post natal clinic is held in the area. Expectant mothers receive advice from their own Medical Practitioners. There are three Child Welfare Clinics in the area, one at Pencader, one and Velindre and the other at Llanybyther. These are very well attended and are proving of immense value.

(b) There are five Nurses practising in the area, all have the C.M.B. Qualifications.

(c) The domicillary Midwifery Service is carried out by the District Nurse.

(d) Vaccination is carried out by the person's own Medical Attendant, but Immunisation against Diphtheria is performed partly by the former and partly by the Medical Officers of the Local Health Authority.

(e) The area of the Council is covered by the County Ambulance Service. For infectious cases there is a special Ambulance at the West Wales Isolation Hospital at Tumble.

(f) Arrangements for the prevention of illness consists of periodic taks and advice given by the staff of the Local Health Authority. Care and after care is in the hands of the Health Visitors and District Nurses. Tuberculosis cases are also followed up by the Chest Physicians Health Visitor.

(g) HOSPITALS. The General Infirmary, Carmarthen, at which facilities are available for Operative Surgery and X-ray. There is also a Maternity Home at Carmarthen.

The Plasnewydd Mothercraft Hostel, Bury Port, is administered by the Carmarthenshire County Council for the reception of unmarried mothers, illegitimate children and homeless children. Unmarried mothers are submitted three months before expected confinement and are retained for three months after confinement.

(h) Children deprived of Normal Home Life are cared for by the Children's Committee of the County Council.

(i) Institutional Provision for Mental Defectives is at the St.David's Hospital, Carmarthen.

GENERAL.

There were no unusual features during the year. It is gratifying to note that the incidence of diphtheria and tuberculosis is markedly on the decline.

Since 1944 when corrected notifications were first kept for Wales it is interesting to note the fall in the notifications and deaths due to diphtheria.

Year.	Deaths.	Notifications.
1944	77	2213
1953	--	17
1954	--	10

Parents should be urged not to leave their children unprotected against this disease and to ensure that immunisation is effected at the proper time and age.

WATER SUPPLY.

Several water extensions were completed during the year and several others were well under way. The only major scheme, the Maudsland/ Cenarth Supply is making considerable progress and once this is completed the main water arteries will be well spread throughout the whole district.

During the year many more premises connected to the mains supply.

For Domestic Purposes	- 68 premises
For Non-Domestic Purposes	- 36 premises
For both Domestic and Non-Domestic Purposes	- 61 premises
Total.....	165 premises

SEWERAGE.

Llanybyther is still the only major sewerage scheme operating in the Council's district but it is hoped to see the following schemes materialise in the near future:- Cwmanne, Pencader, Pontwelly and Velindre. These would be the main schemes required by the Council. The remaining villages etc., should not be overlooked and in time and with persistent effort there is no reason why the whole area should not be sewered in the same way as it has been provided with a mains water supply.

Your obedient Servant,

EVAN EVANS.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Mr.Chairman and Members,

We have the honour of presenting the Annual Report of the activities of your Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR:-

Drainage	171	Section 47 H.A.A.1948.	5
Water Supply	57	Food Poisoning	6
Milk Supply	18	Unsound Food	3
Dairies	2	Food Premises	9
Refuse	5	Public Houses	2
Building Byelaws	21	Ice Cream Premises	3
Council Houses	22	Knackers Yards	5
Nuisances	21	Meat Inspection	91
Schools	16	Moveable Dwellings	10
Disinfection	5	Public Conveniences	3
Infectious Diseases	4	Overcrowding	5
Disinfestation	2	Housing Repairs etc.,	32
Rodent Control	16	Housing Survey	602

Improvements (Section 20 H.A.1949) 68

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:-

No. of Statutory Notices served	4
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	4
No. of Preliminary Notices served	22
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	17
Work undertaken by Council in default	NIL

DRAINAGE & CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The Llanybyther Sewerage Scheme continued to operate satisfactorily and during the year under review 33 premises applied for connection to the sewer. This is not a high number considering the number of premises at Llanybyther, but it is hoped that a better response will be forthcoming during 1956.

The Council have not yet exercised their compulsory powers under the Public Health Act, but unless the rate of connections improve during 1956, the Council should put into force these measures.

This is the only sewerage scheme operating in the district at the time and the question of securing like schemes throughout the area should be forcibly pressed. The old pail closet etc., is still an evil reminder of primitive ways, and up to now seems to be a permanent feature of rural communities. It is an ever present menace to public health and the disposal of its contents is a constant problem to those large numbers unfortunate enough to be saddled with it.

WATER SUPPLY.

This presents a far more encouraging outlook that does our sewerage picture. A very high percentage of premises are blessed with a mains water supply and considerable trouble and expense has been involved in supplying even remote farms etc., with this essential commodity.

Those farms not supplied with a main supply have invariably a good private supply. A high percentage of the department's time is taken up in visits to such farms for the purpose of taking water samples of recently constructed private water schemes.

Advice is given on the standards required of water for human consumption together with the best methods of securing these standards.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1955:-

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

(a) Public Supplies.

No. of Samples taken	9
No. of Samples Satisfactory	8
No. of Samples Unsatisfactory	1

(b) Private Supplies.

No. of Samples taken	30
No. of Samples Satisfactory	12
No. of Samples unsatisfactory	18

REFUSE COLLECTION - CONTROL.

The two refuse tips in use at present are far from satisfactory and some attempts will have to be made to control them more efficiently.

Controlled tipping, carried out in the manner recommended by the Ministry of Health is a comparatively cheap and efficient method for the disposal of refuse and is probably the best method for adoption in a rural area.

Carried out properly it reduces rat and fly infestation, quickly renders refuse innocuous and does not give rise to a constant eyesore. It is hoped to start immediate measures to secure the control of the tip on Llanllwni Mountain. It is not possible to control the tip at Treale effectively due to its great depth.

Refuse collection in the area continue to operate efficiently and the response from the public is generally very good. However, a certain section of the public still insist on the indiscriminate tipping of refuse in rivers, streams, waste land, thus polluting the streams, creating breeding grounds for rats and flies and creating ugly eyesores on the landscape.

There is no excuse for this and the sooner the offenders are brought to book the better it will be for all concerned.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the fight against rodents was continued and extended. Apart from attending to complaints received a general survey of the area was made and all infestations treated promptly. No case of rat borne disease was reported, but this factor should not cause us to cease our vigilance and preventative action. Rats and mice still cause great annual loss to foodstuffs and animal feeding stuffs and in the interests of national economy I feel that the money we spend on rodent control is really well spent. Mice droppings infected with salmonelle organisms can contaminate foodstuffs - and often does - and this gives rise to food poisioning. This can have serious consequences and I feel that it is our duty to see that all rat and mouse infestations are attended to promptly.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, TREATMENTS, ETC.,

Type of Property.	No.of Inspections.	No.of Treatments
Local Authority Property	6	NIL
Dwellings	295	58
Business Property	46	NIL
Agricultural Property	140	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

MEAT INSPECTION. Three licenced slaughterhouses are operating in the area and all animals slaughtered here are inspected prior to sale. The slaughterhouses are not yet up to the standard we require, but improvement works are well under way. A complete examination of all carcases is effected and all meat found to be unfit is condemned as unfit for human consumption. The condition of the animals slaughtered is generally very good and no major diseases were encountered during the year.

No. OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED:-

Cattle	55
Sheep	263
Pigs	12
Calves	2

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED:-

Cattle:-	Distomatosis	216 lbs.
	Pleurisy	24 lbs.
	Pneumonia	20 lbs.
	Brusing	77 lbs.
Sheep:-	Distomatosis	87 lbs.
	Strongyli	17 lbs.
	Hydatid Cysts	8 lbs.
	Congestion	3 lbs.
	Oedema	56 lbs.
Total Amount of Meat Condemned =		508 lbs.

OTHER FOODS.

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption. They were subsequently condemned and destroyed:-

Ox Tongues	30 lbs.
Cooked Ham	161 lbs.
Roast Pork	9 lbs.
Tinned Meat	366 Tins.
Tinned Fruit	58 Tins.
Tinned Vegetables	16 Tins.
Tinned Milk	23 Tins.
Fresh Herrings	80 lbs.
Suet	6 lbs.

MILK.

There are 19 milk distributors operating in the area and the major part of the milk sold is in bottles. The distributors have been advised to ensure that the bottles are adequately sterilized before use and that some form of protection from dust, dirt, etc., be utilised during transportation to customers.

The milks sold are generally raw milk from T.T.Herds, but in a few cases pasteurised milk is purchased from the three main dairies operating at Carmarthen, Felinfach and Newcastle Emlyn.

SCHOOLS.

A survey of 11 schools was made during the year and the necessary recommendations passed on to the Education Committee of the County Council.

The conditions generally left much to be desired, if the schools are to be brought up to the standards prevailing in our towns and urban areas. The department recognises the many difficulties facing the Education Committee but at the same time an all out effort should be made to secure a water carriage system of drainage and the provision of hot water laid on to the wash-hand basins provided for the staff and pupils.

SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS.

No. of schools inspected with main water supply	11
No. of schools inspected without main water supply	NIL
No. of schools inspected with water closets	1
No. of schools inspected with pail closets, etc.,	9
No. of schools inspected with closets discharging to river	1

As will be observed there is at all schools inspected an adequate mains supply of water which should encourage the Education Authority to carry out the conversion from pail closets to a water carriage system without difficulty.

The structures generally were good as far as general repair, lighting,ventilation,heating, etc., was concerned. The kitchens were adequate in most cases and of a reasonably good standard.

HOUSING.

The preliminary survey demanded by the Housing Act, 1936, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was carried out and the proposals submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY.

Total number of Permanent Houses in the area	3478
Estimated number of unfit houses	212
Period necessary for securing demolition of these unfit houses	20 years
Number of houses to be demolished in first five years	50

All the sub-standard houses will be treated as individual unfit houses and no slum clearance areas are visualised.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1955, DURING 1955.

1. Closed as result of undertaking given by owners (Sec. 11).	2
2. No. of houses demolished as a result of Section 11 action.	1
3. No. of dwelling houses served with Section 9 notices.	Nil
4. No. of notices served in respect of overcrowding	Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

During 1955 the Council approved plans and estimates in respect of improvements to 26 dwelling houses within the area.

Several of these houses were completed during the year and turned out to be of a very high standard. The Council can rightly feel proud of their efforts in this direction.

CONCLUSION.

The year under review has been a busy one and despite the additional work imposed by the rural housing survey, some considerable headway was made to maintain and improve the general public health work of the department.

However much requires to be done in securing a healthy and safe environment and an all out effort must be made to maintain the standards that have been set. Much of the credit is due to the Council upon whom a Health Department depends upon for its success and progress. We look forward to a period of progress and general interest by the Council and ratepayers in Public Health in all its many and varied phases.

In conclusion we would thank the Council for their co-operation and ready support, the Medical Officer of Health for his interest and advice, the Clerk and his department for his willingness to help at all times and the outdoor staff for their loyalty.

We are, Sirs,

Your obedient Servants,

W. J. GRIFFITHS,

J. G. ROWLANDS.